

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 462

Addition to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*
of the generic name *Mormoops* Leach, 1820 (Class
Mammalia)

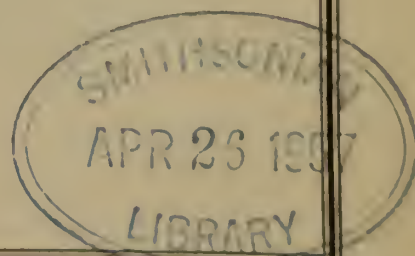
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 462

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

OPINION 462

ADDITION TO THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" OF THE GENERIC NAME "MORMOOPS" LEACH, 1821 (CLASS MAMMALIA)

RULING :—(1) It is hereby ruled :—that Dobson (1878 : 454, *nota*) is to be interpreted as having taken the following action as a First Reviser, namely that he selected :—

(a) the generic name *Mormoops* Leach, 1821, to the exclusion of *Aëлло* Leach, 1821, for use by specialists who consider on taxonomic grounds that the above are no more than different names for the same genus ;

(b) the specific name *blainvillii* Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii*, to the exclusion of the specific name *cuvieri* Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Aëлло cuvieri*, for use by specialists who consider on taxonomic grounds that the above are no more than different names for the same species.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1077 :—

Mormoops Leach, 1821, a name having precedence over *Aëлло* Leach, 1821, through the action of Dobson (1878) as a First Reviser, as prescribed by the Ruling given in (1)(a) above (gender : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Mormoops blainvillei* (correction of *blainvillii*) Leach, 1821, a name having precedence over *Aëлло cuvieri* Leach, 1821, through the action of Dobson (1878) as a First Reviser, as prescribed in (1)(b) above).

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1155 :—

blainvillei (correction of *blainvillii*) Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii*, a name having precedence over the name *cuvieri* Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Aëлло cuvieri*, as prescribed in (1)(b) above (specific name of type species of *Mormoops* Leach, 1821).

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 869 :—

Mormops Cuvier (G.F.), 1829 (an Invalid Emendation of *Mormoops* Leach, 1821).

(5) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 382 :—

blainvillii Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii* (an Invalid Original Spelling for *blainvillei*).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 16th January 1951, Dr. T. C. S. Morrison-Scott (then of the *British Museum (Natural History)*, London and now *Director, The Science Museum, London*) addressed a preliminary enquiry to the Office of the Commission regarding the relative precedence to be accorded to two generic names (*Mormoops* and *Aëлло*) published by Leach in 1821 in the same paper for what was currently regarded by specialists as a single genus of bats. On

4th February 1955, Dr. Morrison-Scott submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature an application asking for a Ruling that the first of these names had been given precedence over the second by the action of Dobson (1878) as a First Reviser and requesting that the generic name *Mormoops* Leach, 1821, so endorsed, be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. The application so submitted was as follows:—

**Proposed addition to the “ Official List of Generic Names in Zoology ”
of the generic name “ Mormoops ” Leach, 1821 (Class Mammalia)**

By T. C. S. MORRISON-SCOTT, D.S.C., M.A., D.Sc.

(*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission to stabilise the generic name *Mormoops* Leach, 1821 (Class Mammalia) by placing it upon the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. This name is in universal use for a well-known genus of American bats and it is important that there should be no doubt regarding its availability. The facts of this case are set out briefly below.

2. In a paper published in 1821 (*Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* 13(1)) Leach established two new nominal genera of bats. To the first of these he gave the name *Aëлло* (: 69, 70), to the second, the name *Mormoops* (: 76). These are both monotypical genera, the type species of *Aëлло* Leach being *Aëлло cuvieri* Leach (: 71), the type species of *Mormoops* Leach, being *Mormoops blainvillii* Leach (: 77).

3. The relative status of these genera and species was discussed by Dobson (1878, *Cat. Chiroptera Brit. Mus.*) who took the view that the names *Mormoops blainvillii* and *Aëлло cuvieri* applied to the same species (: 456) and therefore that the generic names *Mormoops* (which he referred to under the emended form *Mormops*) and *Aëлло* were subjective synonyms of one another. For the reasons explained in the following passage (which appeared as a footnote on page 454) he rejected the name *Aëлло* in favour of the name *Mormoops* published later in the same paper :—

Aëлло, previously characterised by Leach, is undoubtedly a synonym of this genus [i.e. of *Mormoops* Leach], as the type of *Aëлло cuvieri* shows ; but the definition of the genus is quite incorrect, as the type specimen from which it was taken had lost all trace of

the cutaneous processes on the muzzle, and the number of the teeth is incorrectly given. Therefore, although the name *Aëлло* has precedence of *Mormoops*, I retain the latter, which was published at the same time and has the advantage of correct definition.

4. Other authors have followed Dobson, including Rehn (1902, "A Revision of the Genus *Mormoops*" in *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* 54 : 160) who added the following note :—

While the genus and species *Aëлло cuvieri* have page priority over *Mormoops blainvillii*, the very poor definition and absolute unidentifiability of the former (without a close examination of the type such as Dobson made) should give occasion to use the better defined, almost simultaneous and universally recognised name.

5. The present *Règles* were not in existence at the time when Dobson wrote the passage quoted above and, although they had been adopted by the Berlin Congress in 1901, they had not been published when Rehn wrote his revision of the genus *Mormoops*. Under the Berlin *Règles* the principle of the First Reviser was given official recognition for determining the relative priority to be accorded to subjective synonyms published in the same work and on the same date (Article 28). The *Règles* did not give any guidance on the question of the action needed to be taken by an author in order to qualify that action for acceptance as that by a "First Reviser". It was reasonable however to conclude that the action by Dobson, Rehn and others was sufficiently precise to secure effective priority for the generic and specific names *Mormoops* and *Mormoops blainvillii* over the generic and specific names *Aëлло* and *Aëлло cuvieri*. The position was however completely reversed in 1948 by the decision of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology to substitute the Principle of Page and Line Precedence for the Principle of the First Reviser. Thereafter until 1953 the long-neglected generic and specific names *Aëлло* and *Aëлло cuvieri* undoubtedly became the valid names for the bat concerned. Fortunately, however, this change was not made by any author, the names *Mormoops* and *Mormoops blainvillii* remaining in use. In 1953 the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology restored the First Reviser Principle and, in order to facilitate the interpretation of the revised Article, inserted a definition of the action needed to be taken by an author in order to qualify that action as that by a First Reviser (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 66—67, Decisions 123 and 124).

6. It is arguable that neither Dobson, Rehn nor any other author has effectively acted as a First Reviser in the present case within the meaning of the definition adopted by the Copenhagen Congress, though on a common sense view the unbroken and long-extended usage of *Mormoops* in preference to *Aëлло* should, it seems to me, be sufficient ground for the permanent rejection of the name *Aëлло* in

favour of the name *Mormoops*. In order however to prevent the possibility of the stability of the name of this genus being endangered by an attempt to substitute the name *Aëлло* for the name *Mormoops*, I ask the International Commission to protect the latter name by placing it on the *Official List* with a note that it is to be treated as having precedence over the name *Aëлло* and by taking corresponding action as regards the specific name *blainvillii* Leach. I recognise that, as we are concerned here only with a case of subjective synonymy, it is not possible for the Commission to place the generic name *Aëлло* Leach and the specific name *cuvieri* Leach, as published in the combination *Aëлло cuvieri*, on the *Official Indexes of Rejected and Invalid Names* without resort to its Plenary Powers. In the present case this does not seem to be a serious disadvantage, provided that the entries to be made on the *Official Lists* relating to the generic name *Mormoops* Leach and *blainvillii* Leach, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii*, are endorsed in the manner recommended above.

7. The generic name *Mormoops* Leach has been taken as the base for a family-group name by a number of authors, of whom the first was Koch who in 1864 (*Jahrb. nassau. Ver. Naturk.* **18** : 358) published the name MORMOPIDA. This genus is not currently treated by mammalogists as the type genus of a family-group taxon, being placed in the subfamily CHILONYCTERIINAE. In the circumstances there is no need to place the family-group name based on *Mormoops* on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*.

8. For the reasons set out above I ask the International Commission :—

(1) to rule that Dobson (1878 : 454, *nota*), acting as First Reviser under Article 28 of the *Règles*, selected :—

(a) the generic name *Mormoops* Leach, 1821, to the exclusion of the generic name *Aëлло* Leach, 1821, for use by specialists who consider on taxonomic grounds that these are no more than different names for the same genus ;

(b) the specific name *blainvillii* Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii*, to the exclusion of the specific name *cuvieri* Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Aëлло cuvieri*, for use by specialists who consider on taxonomic grounds that these are no more than different names for the same species ;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—*Mormoops* Leach, 1821, the entry so to be made to be endorsed in the manner specified in (1)(a) above (gender : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Mormoops blainvillei* (correction of *blainvillii*) Leach, 1821, a name having precedence as specified in (a)(b) above) ;

- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—*blainvillei* (correction of *blainvillii*) Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii*, the entry so to be made to be endorsed in the manner specified in (1)(b) above ;
- (4) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—*Mormops* Cuvier (F.), 1829 (*Dict. Sci. nat.* **59** : 422) (an Invalid Emendation of *Mormoops* Leach, 1821) ;
- (5) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—*blainvillii* Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii* (an Invalid Original Spelling of *blainvillei*).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : At the time of the receipt of Dr. Morrison-Scott's preliminary enquiry in 1951 the question of the relative precedence to be accorded to the two generic names *Mormoops* and *Aëлло* was allotted the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 513.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 17th February 1955 and was published on 31st May in the same year in Part 6 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Morrison-Scott, 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 183—185).

4. Comment received from P. HersHKovitz (Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.) : On 10th October 1955, Dr. P. HersHKovitz (*Chicago Natural History Museum*,

Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.) addressed the following comment on the present application to the Office of the Commission :—

The request by Dr. T. C. S. Morrison-Scott for stabilization of the name *Mormoops* Leach, with type *Mormoops blainvillei* Leach, by placing it on the *Official List of Generic Names*, is hereby seconded. First reviser Dobson deliberately and precisely selected *Mormoops* Leach over *Aëлло* Leach, which has page priority, as the generic name for the chilonycterine bat in question. This overt act is decisive according to Article 28 of the Rules, and paragraph 124 of the Copenhagen Decisions (pp. 66—67).

The specific name *blainvillii* Leach is the original spelling and the sole basis for the emendation *blainvillei*. The former should not be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names* as requested by Morrison-Scott. Obviously, rejection of *blainvillii* [sic] as invalid, automatically makes *blainvillei* [sic] a new name dated from its proposer, Morrison-Scott, 1955, and not an emendation of the incorrectly spelled but valid name and genotype first introduced by Leach in 1821.

5. No objection received : No objection to the acceptance of Dobson's (1878) as that of a First Reviser proposed in the present case was received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(56)12 : On 29th February 1956 a Voting Paper (V.P.(56)12) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Mormoops* Leach, 1821, as set out in Points (1) to (5) in paragraph 8 on page 185 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 29th May 1956.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(56)12 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(56)12 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-five (25) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Hering ; Lemche ; do Amaral ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Vokes ; Mayr ; Dymond ; Bodenheimer ; Mertens ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Jaczewski ; Esaki ; Boschma ; Key ; Hankó ; Riley ; Prantl ; Stoll ; Hemming ; Cabrera ; Tortonese ; Bonnet ; Kühnelt ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 30th May 1956, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(56)12, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the

decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “ Opinion ” : On 4th January 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(56)12.

11. Original References : The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

blainvillei, correction of *blainvillii* Leach, 1821, as published in the combination *Mormoops blainvillii*

blainvillii, *Mormoops*, Leach, 1821, *Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* **13**(1) : 77

Mormoops Leach, 1821, *Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* **13**(1) : 76

Mormops Cuvier (G.F.), 1829, *Dict. Sci. nat.* **59** : 422

12. Family-Group-Name Aspects : It has been reported that no family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the genus *Mormoops* Leach, 1821, being currently placed in the subfamily CHILONYCTERIINAE of the family PHYLLOSTOMATIDAE.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Sixty-Two (462) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fourth day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING